

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 107676 TOSEC 040190
ORIGIN SS-15

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 /016 R

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S/S-SSTEINER

-----112354Z 034256 /12

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 107676 TOSEC 040190

EXDIS-FOR SECRETARY AND HARTMAN

FOLLOWING REPEAT MOSCOW 6485 ACTION SECSTATE DTD 11 MAY

QTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 6485

EXDIS

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY HARTMAN

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SCUL, CSCE, CVIS, UR, US (NADLER, GERALD)

SUBJECT: CORRESPONDENTS' VISAS

1. I BELIEVE DECISION TO ISSUE VISA TO TASS CORRESPONDENT
LEVCHENKO WITHOUT, APPARENTLY, ANY ASSURANCE IN REGARD TO
UPI'S NADLER, IS UNFORTUNATE AND RECOMMEND THAT
RECONSIDERATION BE GIVEN THIS MATTER BEFORE ACTION IS TAKEN.

2. TO MY KNOWLEDGE, SOVIETS HAVE REFUSED TO GIVE ANY REASON
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FOR DELINING VISA TO NADLER AND WE KNOW OF NO VALID REASON
FOR SOVIETS TO OBJECT TO HIM. THE ONLY MEANS WE HAVE TO
RESTRAIN SUCH ARBITRARY BEHAVIOR IN THE LONG RUN IS TO
DEMONSTRATE CONSISTENTLY THAT SOVIETS WILL BE REQUIRED TO
PAY PRICE IF THEY RESORT TO IT. IF WE SIMPLY ISSUE LEVCHENKO
VISA NOW, THE SIGNAL IS QUITE THE OPPOSITE: THAT THEY CAN
DEAL AS ARBITRARILY AS THEY WISH WITH U.S. JOURNALISTS.

FURTHERMORE, THE LOCAL U.S. PRESS CORPS IS THOROUGHLY FAMILIAR WITH THE NADLER CASE AND THE PRESS GUIDANCE PROVIDED WITH STATE 98453 CERTAINLY WILL NOT CONVINCE THEM THAT THE USG IS ACTING WITH THEIR INTERESTS IN MIND.

3. THIS QUESTION ALSO HAS IMPLICATIONS BEYOND PRESS REPRESENTATION. AS YOU KNOW, SOVIETS HAVE BEEN BUILDING UP PUBLIC CASE AGAINST EMBASSY OFFICER PRESEL, USING TOTALLY UNFOUNDED ACCUSATIONS AND INNUENDO. IF WE DEMONSTRATE A WILLINGNESS TO ACCEPT LESS THAN FULL RECIPROCITY IN THE MATTER OF JOURNALISTS' VISAS, SOVIETS MAY WELL CONCLUDE THAT THEY CAN MOVE WITH IMPUNITY AGAINST PRESEL. OUR FAILURE TO RETALIATE ON THE BREMENT OUSTER LAST YEAR IS ALSO RELEVANT HERE: THIS IS SIMPLY NO TIME TO WEAKEN OUR INSISTANCE ON RECIPROCITY.

4. FOR THESE REASONS, I HAVE INSTRUCTED OUR CONSUL TO DELAY ISSUING THE LEVCHENKO VISA UNTIL CONSIDERATIONS I HAVE OUTLINED ABOVE HAVE BEEN APPROPRIATELY WEIGHED. IF IT IS THEN DETERMINED THAT THE LEVCHENKO VISA SHOULD BE ISSUED, WE SHALL OF COURSE DO SO PROMPTLY.
TOON UNQTE CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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